	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/928,143	LEHERBAUER, ANTON
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Todd Ingberg	2124

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *11/26/2004*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-33*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *8/10/02* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

The title of the application has been amended as follows:

VERSION CONTROL ADAPTER INTERFACE TO SUPPORT INEGRATION

OF MULTIPLE VENDORS INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENTs (IDEs)

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

        The flowing is Applicant's Remarks for Allowance dated November 26, 2004 in response to Office Action. The Remarks section has been scanned and scanning errors might be present.

"Remarks
        In the office action, the declaration was objected to. Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for failing to recite patentable subject matter. Claims 1-10, 14-26, and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Visual Source Safe version 5.0 commercial product ("VSS") as documented by the cited manual from 1997 in view of the commercial product Clear Case by Atria as ("Clear Case") documented by the cited Concepts Manual from 1994. Claims 11-13 and 27-29 were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.
        In this response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, 17, and 27. Claims 1-33 remain pending in this application. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections."

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"C.   Rejections under 35 U.S.C. & 103(a):
        Claims 1-10, 14-26, and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over VSS in view of Clear Case.
        VSS, which is mentioned in the Applicants" specification at paragraph [0003], is a web
management software product that includes version control management. Integration of VSS with a limited number of integrated development environment (IDEs), which have been programmed to support VSS is discussed. VSS teaches entering commands using a command line tool. Page 185-187. VSS is described as being integratable with some specifically adapted IDEs, such as Microsoft Visual Studio. Page 176 and 182. VSS may be used with other, nonMicrosoft IDES that support revision control systems, however, doing so requires additional steps that are not discussed in the cited document. See page 182. Moreover, some IDES "there is simply no option of integrating with" VSS. Instead, VSS must be accessed separately using intricate batch files. Page 182-183. The VSS reference recognizes that an Application Program Interface may be used to communicate basic command information between VSS and the IDE running on a common operating system.
        Clear Case, which is also mentioned in the Applicants' specification at paragraph [0003], is a comprehensive software configuration management system including version control functionality. Clear case teaches storing versions in a shared data repository in the form of a Version Object Base (VOB), which can be distributed throughout a local area network. Pages 2 and 3.
        Independent claim 1 recites a method executing on a computer readable medium for integrating a version control tool into an integrated development

environment. The method includes the following steps: receiving a version
control command; creating an object using the integrated development
environment, the object
including command information corresponding to the version control command;
accessing the object using a version control adapter; and communicating the
command information from the version control adapter to the
version control tool.

Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to
combine VSS with Clear Case as suggested by the Examiner, and without the
benefit of hindsight, to arrive at the Applicants claimed invention. Both VSS
and Clear Case differ from the claimed invention in important ways. VSS does
not teach the step of creating an object using the IDE that includes version
control command information, nor accessing the object using a version control
adapter, nor communicating the command information from the version control
adapter to the version control tool. On the contrary, as Examiner points out,
VSS merely describes an API for
communicating command information to the version control tool. The API is not
capable of accessing an object and therefore can only communicate a limited
number of basic general commands supported by the API. The Clear Case document
does not teach the recited step of creating an object using an EDE, nor the
step of accessing the object using a version control adapter, nor the step of
communicating command information from a version control adapter to the
version control tool. Moreover, both VSS and Clear Case have the disadvantage,
as discussed in Applicants' specification, that they, can be integrated, if at
all, only with a limited number of IDES that provide specific support for
those tools. See paragraphs [0003] to [0005]. There is no suggested motivation
for combining; features to be found in either reference, since neither
suggests a solution for integrating, in an effective manner, the version
control functionality of VSS or Clear Case into an 1DE that does not
specifically support VSS or Clear Case.
Unlike either VSS or Clear Case, the claimed invention provides a
solution to a problem not recognized by either of those references: providing
an interface in the form of a version control adapter which is capable of
accessing objects created by the IDE. In that way, the version control adapter
can communicate, in a sophisticated manner, command information to the version
control tool. The amount of functionality that needs to be hard-coded into the
IDE itself to support a specific version control tool is thereby greatly
reduced, and the task of integrating a wide range of IDEs with a specific
version control tool made easier. See, for example, Applicants' specification
at paragraph [0023].
Moreover, even if the references are combined in the selective manner
suggested by the Examiner (improperly in Applicants' view), the combination
would still not teach or suggest all of the recited elements. Specifically,
neither reference nor the combination of both, teaches or suggests the step of
accessing an object using a version control adapter. The API, taught in VSS
and deemed by the Examiner to correspond to a version control adapter, is
incapable of accessing an object of the IDE, and therefore is capable of
understanding and communicating only a limited number of predetermined
commands supported by the API.
The invention as recited in independent claims 17 and 33 and in new
independent claims 1 1 and 27 are likewise not taught or suggested by either
or both of VSS and Clear Case for similar reasons.

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        Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-10, 14-26, and 30-33 under 35
U.S.C. § 103(a) is
D.          Allowable Subject Matter:                                    .
        Claims 11-13 and 27-29 were objected to for depending from a rejected
claim, but were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.
Applicants have rewritten claims 11 and 27 in independent form including all
of the elements from the claim(s) from which they depend. Claims 12 and 13
depend from claim 11 and claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 27.
        As conceded by the Examiner, neither reference teaches the step of the
version control adapter receiving errors generated by the version control tool
while implementing the version control command as recited in claims 1 1 and
27. Yet, even if some form of error messages were produced by Visual Source
Safe 5.0 to the Visual Source Safe environment, the possibility of which is
suggested by the Examiner, Applicants further submit that VSS does not teach
or suggest that those error messages being received by a version control
adapter, or a version control adapter capable of receiving those error
messages as those elements are recited in claims 11 and 27. See also remarks
under section C above."
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3.   **Examiner's Response and Reasons for Allowance**

Applicant's response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) begins on page 7 of the
November 26, 2004 response to Office Action.

The argument that Microsoft's Visual SourceSafe (VSS) *"... is a web
management software product that includes version control management. "* Is not
persuasive. The product is not dependent on the web. Examiner's personal knowledge
having used the commercial product in 1997 without the web, yields this statement non
persuasive.

In a similarly fashion the statement on page 8 that Clearcase's " ... Version Object Base
(VOB), which can be distributed throughout a local area network", is not persuasive. The VOB
may be distributed and may not be distributed throughout a Local Area Network. The statement
was not a factor in the determination of patentability.

The argument in support of the allowable limitations that support the integration of
multiple IDEs from multiple vendors is as follows:

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"....step of accessing the object using a version control adapter, nor the step
of communicating command information from a version control adapter to the
version control tool."
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The claim limitations underlined below provide support enables an integration of
multiple IDEs from multiple vendors . The claimed invention was not found singularly of in
combination in the prior art of record.

Claim 1
A method executing on a computer readable medium for integrating a version control tool into an integrated development environment, the method comprising: receiving a version control command; creating an object using the integrated development environment, the object including command information corresponding to the version control command; accessing the object using a version control adapter; and communicating the command information from the version control adapter to the version control tool.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
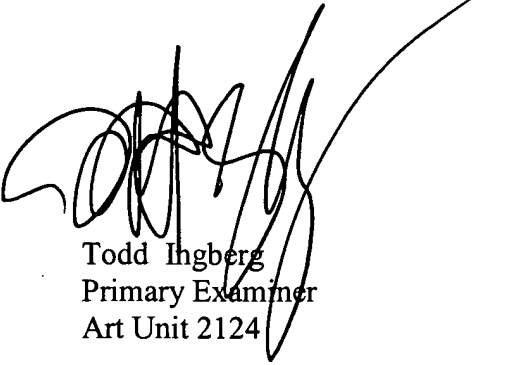
Correspondence Information

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Todd Ingberg whose telephone number is (571) 272-3723. The examiner can normally be reached on during the work week..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kakali Chaki can be reached on (571) 272-3719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Todd Ingberg
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2124

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